

has been true progress made, and we expect more progress to be made.

### CREATING JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me and giving me this time to speak on a very important subject.

I want to associate myself with the comments of my friend from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) who spoke just a minute ago. He is absolutely correct, there is no more important discussion that we can have on this House floor than the subject of jobs, jobs, and jobs.

I was delighted yesterday to see the action of the United States Senate. The Senate passed, by a majority of 62 Senators voting, to invoke cloture and to begin discussing and debating the long-awaited jobs bill. I am very pleased that the Senate is taking this matter very seriously. We are working to stimulate job growth in this country. And we must ensure that the bill puts people back to work. That is what it is all about, putting people back to work. Our bill also assists the unemployed and struggling who are trying to make ends meet with their family. So the vote of the Senate yesterday was quite encouraging, and I want to commend our colleagues in the other body for doing so.

Mr. Speaker, one of the advantages that we had in being snowed out of Washington for the last 2½ weeks was that we had an opportunity to go back to our districts and to visit the various counties and to talk with people who are suffering from job loss. And it is profound. In December, the House passed a strong jobs bill that included provisions that extended unemployment insurance benefits. That is very important. We also voted to extend COBRA health benefits.

We must work in a bipartisan manner, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that this critical safety net stays in place. We can do it, Mr. Speaker. We can do it if we put our hands to the plow, work together as Democrats and Republicans. We can do it. The American people are expecting us to do it.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I represent North Carolina, the eastern part of our State, 23 counties. Nineteen of the 23 counties that I represent are suffering unemployment rates above 10 percent, including Edgecombe County, which has the State's second highest unemployment rate, at 16.7 percent. That is one out of eight citizens who are unemployed. North Carolina is suffering its highest rate of unemployment, Mr. Speaker, in 34 years.

Thousands of North Carolinians are facing the prospect of losing their unemployment benefits over the next 60 days. Across our great country, about 2.7 million jobless people will lose their benefits by the end of April unless we act. We must act.

People are facing similar dim prospects with COBRA. North Carolina's already record high number of people without health insurance is expected to continue to surge when the subsidies for the Federal Government's COBRA coverage expires, putting yet another strain on our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this time. I urge swift and strong action on a jobs bill that puts people back to work and helps those people who are most in need. Not only do we need tax cuts for small businesses. We say that all the time. Yes, we need tax cuts for small businesses. But we also need jobs for the chronically unemployed, and we need it now.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Alan Keiran, Office of the United States Senate Chaplain, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, we extol Your great name, for You alone deserve our worship and unwavering allegiance. We thank You for the gifts of meaningful labor, loving families and freedom to worship. We thank You as well for Your ultimate sacrifice which brings us hope for bright tomorrows.

Father, we humbly commend to Your abiding care those among us who are facing the challenges of age, health, and the loss of loved ones. May Your presence illumine the hearts of all who seek to bring You glory and long for Your loving presence.

We pray as well that You will empower our legislators and their staffs with the wisdom and tenacity needed to solve seemingly intractable issues facing our country and our world. Give them the strength to endure long hours of labor with a positive sense of accomplishment.

Finally, we pray for all those in harm's way and their families. May You watch over them and protect them with Your abiding presence. In Your mighty name, I pray. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4532. An act to provide for permanent extension of the attorney fee withholding procedures under title II of the Social Security Act to title XVI of such Act, and to provide for permanent extension of such procedures under titles II and XVI of such Act to qualified non-attorney representatives.

### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

FEBRUARY 23, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: This letter serves as my intent to resign from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, effective today.

Sincerely,

GREG WALDEN,  
*Member of Congress.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

### ELECTING A MINORITY MEMBER TO A STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1095

*Resolved*, That the following Member be, and he is hereby, elected to the following standing committee:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Mr. Griffith.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### HEALTH CARE RELIEF IS NEEDED

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the U.S. Department of Labor